



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

July 2007

Volume 33

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2007

The 24th Annual National Night Out Against Crime is scheduled for Tuesday August 7th, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. This night is set aside for residents to show their united stand against crime in their neighborhoods. The concept behind the program was for people to take a back their neighborhoods by gathering in the streets one summer night each year, turning on their house and/or porch lights and celebrating their power to control events in the community.



This is a perfect opportunity for you and your neighbors to get reacquainted. This is also a great opportunity to have an informal "meet and greet" with representatives from the Police Department. Everyone attending has a chance to come up and say hello to the Officers and Command Staff without any "formal" meeting type Setting.

Your National Night Out party or gathering doesn't have to be elaborate. The important thing is that you stay acquainted with your neighbors and take pride in keeping your neighborhood safe.



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The following are some National Night Out party suggestions to help you plan your event.....

CONVERSATION MIXERS

- Block history stories
- Photos from past block parties and events
- Oldest resident award
- Newest resident award

SIMPLE REFRESHMENTS

- Potluck
- Lemonade/punch and cookies
- Coffee, tea and desserts
- Pizza
- Hamburgers and hotdogs
- Fruit and cheese platters



ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

- Board games
- Skits
- Coloring contest
- Chalk art
- Piñata
- Sack races
- Water balloons
- Face painting



ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

- Block party
- Chili cookout
- Hula Hoop contest
- Barbeque
- Scavenger hunt
- Cookie bake contest
- Karaoke



Please let us know if your block will be participating in National Night Out. We would like to hear from you no later than Friday July 27th so that we can schedule an officer to attend your event.

Last year there were 12 scheduled block parties, if anyone has pictures from last year's event that they would like to share please bring them to the Police Department and leave them at the front desk addressed to Services Officer Luz Aceves, I will display them in our lobby.

If you need help organizing your Night Out, please feel free to contact Services Officer Luz Aceves in Community Affairs at (310) 618-6392.



VACATION SECURITY

AT HOME

- Have a good lock on all doors and windows and use them.
- Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number (preceded by a "CA") or other identification number.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot, or on the ledge of a door.
- Tell your local law enforcement agency you plan to be away. Patrol officers may be able to check your home periodically.
- Stop all deliveries, or arrange for someone to pick up your mail, newspapers, and packages.

"An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar."

ON THE ROAD



- Never carry large amounts of cash; use traveler's checks. If you must carry large sums of money, do not display it openly.
- Keep a record of traveler's check and credit card numbers in a safe place. Have the telephone numbers to all in case your checks or credit cards are lost or stolen.
- Be aware of surroundings and never advertise your plans, including travel routes and amount of cash you are carrying.
- Do not stop to offer help to stranded motorists. Use your cell phone to call for assistance.
- If you suspect someone is following you, drive to the nearest service station, restaurant, or business and call the police or sheriff's department. If you believe it is unsafe to get out of your car, honk your horn and flash your lights to draw attention.
- If your car breaks down, raise your hood and attach a white cloth to the car's antenna as an emergency signal. Stay in your locked car. If you must abandon your car, keep all passengers together.

- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn or rake leaves to give your home a lived-in look.
- Use timers to turn lights and a radio on and off at appropriate time.
- Hide garbage cans in the basement or a storage shed. Empty cans when everyone else's are full can tell a burglar you are away.
- Turn the bell on your telephone down low so a burglar will not be alerted to your absence by its ringing.

HOTEL AND MOTEL SECURITY



*When staying overnight at a hotel or motel remember the following :

- Determine the most direct route to and from your room to the fire escapes, elevators, and the nearest telephone.
- Use all auxiliary locking devices on doors and window. You may want to purchase a portable door lock for traveling.
- Use the door viewer to identify anyone requesting entry. Open the door only if you are certain the person has a legitimate reason to enter your room. If in doubt, call the office.
- Unpack and place belongings in the closet and dresser. Arrange your things so you will know if something is missing.
- Consider locking any electrical appliances in your luggage. Suitcases should always be locked so they cannot be used to carry your property out of your room.
- Never leave money, checks, credit cards, or car keys in the room. Take them with you.

When you return home, if you suspect a burglary, do not go in. Go to a neighbor's house and call the police.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch is a program that began in 1972, it is designed for neighbors to look out for each other, work on neighborhood problems, and make themselves safer. Members learn how to work with law enforcement and report suspicious activity to the police.

Often Neighborhood Watch programs get started because there have been incidents in the community that have caused concern - acts of vandalism, burglaries, or auto thefts. These are the types of crimes that Neighborhood Watch is the most successful in reducing. An active watch group can also help reduce drug dealing and open-air drug markets, discourage gangs, improve the security of young people, and help older neighbor's stay safe from crime.

Neighborhood Watch in Action... On February 28th at approximately 6:30 a.m. officers from the Torrance Police Department set up a perimeter in the east side of the city to search for a suspicious subject. Officers were unable to locate the subject and the perimeter was shut down. Later that morning a Neighborhood Block Captain from the area contacted the Police Department's Community Affairs office. The Block Captain was given a description of the suspect the officers were looking for and the Captain in turn forwarded the information to all the members of the Neighborhood Watch group. At approximately 1:30 p.m. one of the Neighborhood Block members spotted the subject at a nearby business and called the Police Department. Officers ultimately arrested the suspect on an outstanding warrant and other charges.



This is just one example of how Neighborhood watch really works. If your block has not had a formal meeting in a while and you would like to set one up, contact the office of Community Affairs at (310) 346-4881 and we will be glad to assist you

Disaster Service Volunteers Needed

For many years, the Torrance Police Department has maintained, managed and supported hundreds of community members who serve as Disaster Service Volunteers with the City of Torrance. These volunteers not only serve the community during large-scale disasters, they also play an important role during non-disaster and special events such as the Armed Forces Day Parade, the Fourth of July Celebration at Wilson Park, the St Patrick's Day 10K and other public relations activities.

Two of the City's Disaster Service Volunteer programs are the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Torrance Amateur Radio Association (TARA).

The Animal Disaster Team (ADT) is the City's third and newest Disaster Service Volunteer program, and the police department is currently accepting applications for this new and exciting program.

Animal Disaster Team volunteers serve under the direction of the Torrance Animal Control and provide for the feeding, care and sheltering of domestic animals impacted by a disaster. Membership is open to those who live or work in the City of Torrance and enjoy working with animals.



To become a City of Torrance Disaster Service Volunteer with the ADT, please contact the Torrance Police Department's Emergency Services Division at (310) 618-5725 to request a registration packet. I also encourage you to visit the City's website at www.torrnet.com/disasterpreparedness to learn more about the City's disaster preparedness efforts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT ANIMAL CONTROL



In February of 2004, the Torrance Police Department assumed responsibility of Animal Control for the City of Torrance. The program has been accepted very well by our community. In June, 2004 the Animal Control Program also took on the responsibility of Animal Licensing for the City. Torrance Municipal Code Section 41.3.1 and Section 41.3.2 require dogs in the City of Torrance to be licensed. Failure to license dogs may result in a Misdemeanor citation.

Why is it important to license your dog? Since November 2004 until now over 850 dogs were returned to their owners by Animal Control. This means that these animals never went to the shelter for housing. It also serves as validation that your animal has been vaccinated. Torrance Animal Control is currently processing licenses for the 2007 licensing cycle that begins July 1, 2007. The fee for licensing is \$40 for unaltered dogs and \$20 for spayed/neutered dogs. Cats are optional and may be licensed for a fee of \$10 for an unaltered cat and \$5.00 for spayed/neutered cats. For further information, you may contact Torrance Police Animal Control at (310) 618-3850.

REMINDER!!!!

By January 1, 2007, every resident owning an oversized vehicle or trailer must have registered such vehicles with the City of Torrance. Upon a completed registration application, the Torrance Police Department issued the residents an Oversized Vehicle/Trailer Parking Sticker.



By July 1, 2007 no oversized vehicle or trailer will be allowed to park on any public street without displaying a valid OV/Trailer Parking Permit. A resident is entitled to ninety-six permits lasting 24 hours each per year. The oversized vehicle or trailer must be parked directly in front of (or the side of the property if it is a corner lot) the owner's property.

To view the complete OV & Trailer Ordinance, please refer to www.tornet.com or call the Community Development Department (CDD) at (310) 618-5990 you may also e-mail them at CDDTraffic@tornet.com

Save the date!

NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EXPO

**SATURDAY
10 AM - 2 PM
September 29**

For more information please contact
Torrance Emergency Services
310.618.5725
www.tornet.com/disasterpreparedness

Torrance Cultural Arts Center
3330 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, CA 90503

GET THE THINGS YOU NEED!

- Local vendors
- Disaster supplies

DISPLAYS!

- Equipment
- Vehicles
- Supplies

TRAINING!

- What you need to do & know

City of Torrance City Council

Mayor Frank Scotti
Tom Brewer
Gene Drewno
Pat McIntyre
Paul M. Nowatka
Bill Sutherland
Hope Wilkowsky

City Clerk
Sue Herbers

City Treasurer
Linda M. Barnett

City Manager
LeRoy J. Jackson

PARTNERS IN POLICING (PIP) AND TEENS AND POLICING (TAP) 2007 FALL SESSION

If you or anyone you is interested in signing up for the fall session of PIP or TAP, please contact Officer Dave Crespin at (310) 618-6391 during the month of September for further information